

## Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145) CEPOA-RD Washington Plaza Suite 206 3437 Airport Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: April 19, 2007

EXPIRATION DATE: May 3, 2007

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1999-1406-N

WATERWAY: Chatanika River

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

APPLICANT: Mr. John Reeves, Post Office Box 81941, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

LOCATION: The project site is located within sections 2 and 3, T. 3 N., R. 1 E., Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quad Map Livengood A-2 SE, Latitude 65.1234° N., Longitude 147.5214° W.; Chatanika River Subdivision, near Fairbanks, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant is seeking a modification to POA-1999-1406-M, Chatanika River. The permit expired March 31, 2006. The applicant's stated purpose is to extract gravel to provide fill material for the construction of Deckhand Drive, Winchman Court and the remaining portions of Yuba Drive within the permitted subdivision. An additional purpose for the gravel pit pond would be for overwintering habitat for fish.

PROPOSED WORK: The newly proposed work would include the extraction of gravel from a five acre gravel pit and the construction of a 1600 foot long, 5-6' wide channel that would connect the pit to the Chatanika River. The construction of the roads and housepads was previously permitted under POA-1999-1406-4 and POA-1999-1406-M.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Please note this is a 15 day public notice for a modification of an existing permit. This application is a modification to permit POA-1999-1406-4, which authorized:

"The discharge of 38,000 cubic yards (CY) of clean fill material into approximately 11.2 acres of wetlands in order to construct a 60 lot residential subdivision. Work in wetlands includes: clearing/filling for subdivision access roads (approximately six acres; 5,100' long x 36' wide x 3' high [with a 50' cleared right-of-way (ROW)]); clearing/filling for driveways in wetlands to access upland lots (approximately 0.9 acres; 1500' x 23' x 2' [25' ROW]); house lot development (includes house pads,

driveways, septic systems on up to 14 lots; approximately 2.5 acres); fill for access roads to an upland gravel source (approximately 1.4 acres; 1200' long x 36' wide x 3' high [50' cleared ROW]; gravel pit construction (approximately 0.5 acres to be filled during stockpiling of material from a 200' x 100' x 13' gravel pit), and the discharges of an unknown amount of material to be discharged during gravel pit reclamation."

This permit was modified April 27, 2001, to change the location of the access road to the upland gravel source.

"The road at the new location will be approximately 1340' long x 50' wide [cleared ROW] x 3' high, for a net increase in wetland impacts of approximately 0.1 acres."

Currently, portions of Yuba Drive have been constructed. Deckhand Drive and Winchman Court have been cleared. The gravel pit in uplands has been excavated and the gravel used to complete the above mentioned work. The applicant proposes new work to include the development of an additional five acre gravel pit in wetlands and the construction of a 1600 feet long, 5-6 foot wide channel that would connect the gravel pit to the Chatanika River. The connecting channel would be constructed with 2:1 banks. An existing slough would be utilized for portions of the connecting channel. The remainder of the channel would be newly constructed. The depth of the channel would be determined by the depth of the Chatanika River thalweg at the mouth of the connecting channel. The sides (banks) of the connection channel would be revegetated and a 33 foot vegetated buffer (no build zone) along each side of the channel would be established. This buffer would protect the channel from erosion, and provide storage for flood waters. The channel would cross Yuba Drive; a 6' minimum diameter culvert would be used for the crossing.

30% of the perimeter of the pond (closest to road) would have a 10:1 slope (to establish a littoral zone); the rest would be maintained at the angle of repose. The pond would be approximately 30 feet deep at its deepest point. Access to the pond for people in the subdivision would be provided for recreational purposes. A 33' foot vegetated buffer (no build zone) would be re-established and maintained around the perimeter of the pit once extraction has been completed.

Organic material removed during gravel pit construction would be piled separately from mineral soil, for use during pit restoration. Trees cut from the gravel pit area would be placed back in the pit or along the wetted perimeter of the pit for fish habitat.

If the modification is approved, all previous permit conditions would remain effective unless modified through the permitting process. All work would be completed according to the attached plans, sheets 1-3, dated 4/17/2007.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A Certificate of Reasonable Assurance for POA-1999-1406-4 was issued January 17, 2001. A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being

coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect EFH in the project area. This Public Notice initiates EFH consultation with the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality,

energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b) (1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Ellen Lyons at (907) 474-2166, or by email at Ellen.H.Lyons@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

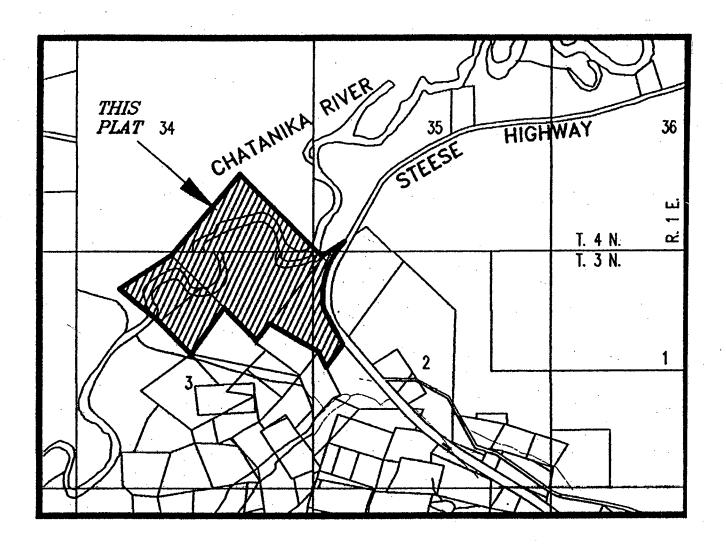
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

- (X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
- (X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

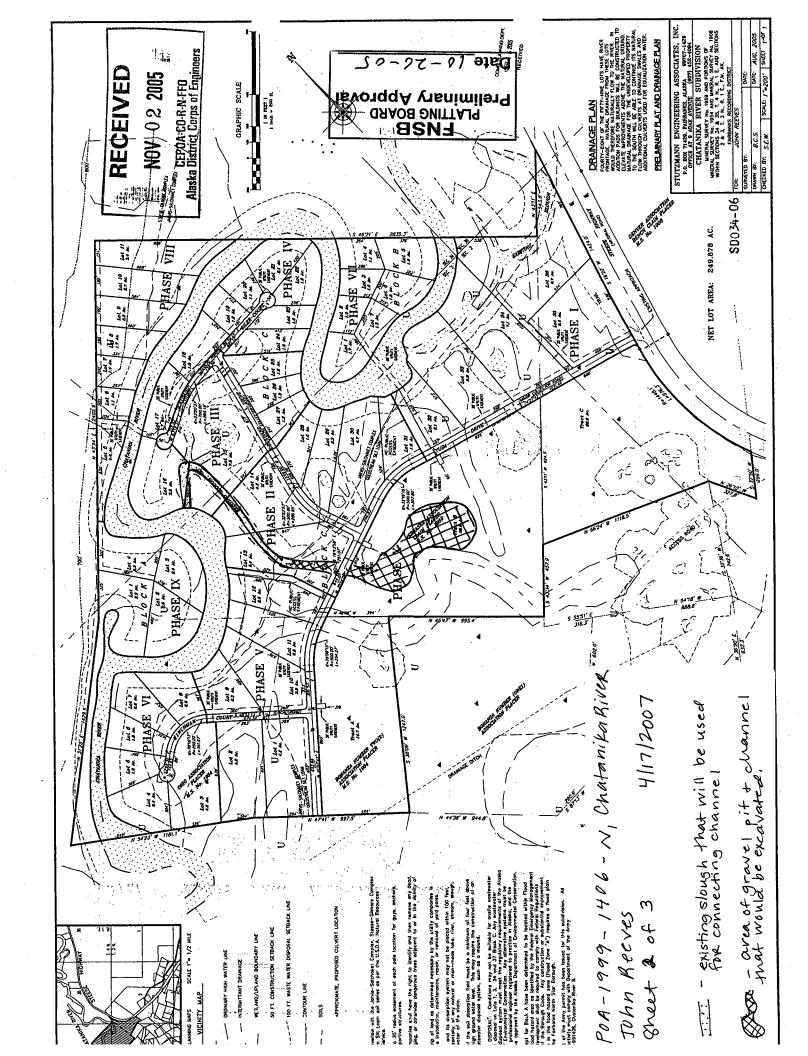
Project drawings, the Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification is enclosed with this Public Notice.

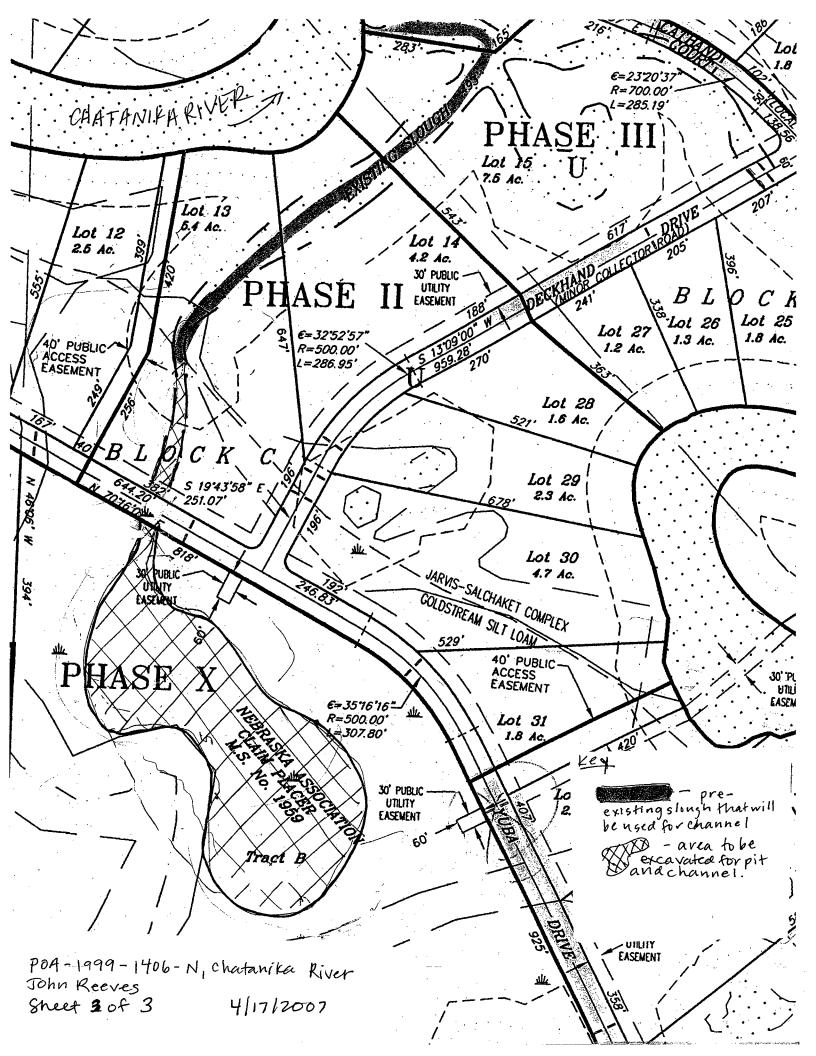
District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



POA-1999-1406-N, Chartanika River John Reeves Sheet 1 of 3 4117/2007 Location Map Sections 2+3, T. 3N, R. 1 E. F.M.





## STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION DIVISION OF WATER 401 Certification Program Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WQM/401 CERTIFICATION 555 CORDOVA STREET ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617 PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. POA-1999-1406-N, Chatanika River, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.